

The Rivers Secondary College | Richmond River High Campus

Planning update | 5 December 2023

Dear staff, families/carers,

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding flood impacted schools in the Northern Rivers region, ensuring we build back better with more flood resilient schools for local students and local communities.

As part of this commitment, a project is underway to rebuild The Rivers Secondary College Richmond River High Campus (RRHC).

Progress summary

- The review of all options for rebuilding RRHC has been completed. The criteria that informed the review included flood resilience, infrastructure requirements, cost, and how each site supports a community vision for education in Lismore and the surrounding areas.
- In 2022 we advised that returning to the Lake Street North Lismore site was highly unlikely. The review has confirmed it is not viable to rebuild at the original site and the school will not return to the Lake Street location. This is supported by Lismore City Council and the SES.
- Community consultation was an important part of our review. Feedback received showed that staff, parents and the community do not support the amalgamation of any college campuses. Accordingly, the three-campus model for The Rivers Secondary College will be retained.
- A number of potential sites have been identified for the rebuild of the Richmond River High Campus. Sites we are looking at are within the current RRHC catchment and reflect the community's long-term vision for secondary education in Lismore and surrounding villages.
- Master planning for the rebuilt campus is continuing in consultation with the Project Reference Group (PRG).

Next steps

- Expert consultants will further investigate the potential sites to understand any factors, including ecological, heritage or planning issues, that need to be considered.
- Negotiations will begin with landowners of potential sites, as well as stakeholders. These sites remain commercial in confidence while negotiations are underway.
- The campus masterplan will be finalised once a preferred site is secured.

We are taking all necessary steps to ensure we select the best location for the new RRHC. As the process continues, we will share more information, including early concept designs for the new campus, with the school community.

Thank you for your patience while we undertake this important project.

